

an operation mode selecting unit selecting any one of two or more operation modes with respect to the touch operation,

wherein a first mode is settable to provide a first function corresponding to the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, and

a second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in a touch position if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

2. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a connecting module for connecting a display device capable of displaying information in addition to said operation screen unit,

wherein said display device is connected via said connecting module,

said first display control unit controls the display of the information on said display device and the display of the information on said operation screen unit, and

the second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

3. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system according to claim 2, wherein said first display control unit executes the control so that the information is exclusively displayed on any one of said display device and said operation screen unit.

4. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a connecting module for connecting a display device capable of displaying information in addition to said operation screen unit, and

a second display control unit,

wherein said display device is connected via said connecting module,
said first display control unit controls display of a first item of information on said operation screen unit,

said second display control unit controls display of a second item of information on said display device, and

the second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

5. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system comprising:
an operation screen unit capable of displaying information and detecting a touch operation on a surface thereof;

a first display control unit controlling display of the information on said operation screen unit; and

a control unit distinguishing between operation modes on said operation screen unit, wherein a first mode is settable to provide a first function corresponding to the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, and

a second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in a touch position if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

6. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system according to claim 5, further comprising:

a connecting module for connecting a display device capable of displaying information in addition to said operation screen unit,

wherein said display device is connected via said connecting module,

said first display control unit controls the display of the information on said display device and the display of the information on said operation screen unit, and

the second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

7. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system according to claim 6, wherein said first display control unit executes the control so that the information is exclusively displayed on any one of said display device or said operation screen unit.

8. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system according to claim 5, further comprising:

a connecting module for connecting a display device capable of displaying information in addition to said operation screen unit, and

a second display control unit,

wherein said display device is connected via said connecting module,

said first display control unit controls display of a first item of information on said operation screen unit,

said second display control unit controls display of a second item of information on said display device, and

the second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

9. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An information processing system, to which a display unit displaying information and a pointing device for indicating coordinates on said display unit are connectable, said system comprising:

a detection unit detecting an operator's input operation of indicating the coordinates by use of said pointing device; and

a display control unit displaying a marker for showing the respective coordinates on said display unit indicated by the input operation,

an operation mode selecting unit selecting any one of a first operation mode for providing a first function of executing a normal process corresponding to the operator's input operation using said pointing device, and a second operation mode for providing a second function of executing a process different from the first operation mode,

wherein said display control unit executes a process of displaying the marker on the basis of the selection of the second operation mode.

10. (CANCELLED).

15 (AS ONCE AMENDED) A method of controlling an information processing system, to which a display device is connected, having an operation screen unit used for displaying information and for providing a first function based on a touch operation on its surface, said method comprising, when information having the same content is displayed on said display device and on said operation screen unit, functions of:

detecting a touch operation on said operation screen unit; and

providing, instead of providing the first function based on the touch operation, or together with providing the first function, a second function of displaying a marker in a display position, corresponding to the detected touch position, on said display device.

16. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A method of controlling an information processing system, to which a display device is connected, having an operation screen unit capable of displaying information and detecting a touch operation on its surface, said method comprising, when no information is displayed on said operation screen unit, functions of:

detecting the touch operation on said operation screen unit;

displaying a marker in a coordinate position on said display device, which corresponds to a position of the detected touch on said operation screen unit; and

providing a function indicated by the marker on said display device.

17. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A method of controlling an information processing

system, to which a display device is connected, having an operation screen unit capable of displaying information and detecting a touch operation on its surface, said method comprising, when different items of information are displayed on said display device and said operation screen unit, functions of:

- detecting the touch operation on said operation screen unit;
- displaying a marker in a coordinate position on said display device, which corresponds to a position of the detected touch on said operation screen unit; and
- providing a function indicated by the marker.

18. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine, tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for processing in response to user instruction using an operation screen unit, the method comprising:

setting an information processing system including an operation screen unit capable of displaying information and detecting a touch operation on its surface to any one of two or more operation modes; and

displaying the information on at least one of said operation screen unit and other display device connected to the information processing system,

wherein the operation modes include:

a first mode settable to provide a first function corresponding to the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, and

a second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation of the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

19. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine, tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for processing in response to user instruction using an operation screen unit, the method comprising:

displaying information on at least one of an operation screen unit capable of displaying the information and detecting a touch operation on its surface and other display device connected to

the computer;

detecting the touch operation on said operation screen unit;

distinguishing between operation modes on said operation screen unit;

wherein the operation modes include:

a first mode settable to provide a first function corresponding to the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, and

a second mode is settable to provide a second function of displaying a marker for indicating a detection of the touch in at least one of a touch position and a display position on said display device which is determined based on the touch operation if the touch operation is detected on said operation screen unit, the second function is provided instead of the first function or together with the first function.

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20. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine, to which a display unit can be connected, tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for processing in response to user instruction using the display unit, the method comprising:

detecting an operator's input operation of indicating the coordinates on a display unit by use of a pointing device being connected to the computer;

displaying a marker for showing the respective coordinates on said display unit indicated by the input operation;

selecting any one of a first operation mode for providing a first function of executing a normal process corresponding to the operator's input operation using said pointing device, and a second operation mode for providing a second function of executing a process different from the first operation mode; and

displaying the marker on the basis of the selection of the second operation mode.

21. (CANCEL)

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22. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine tangible embodying a program according to claim 20, of instructions executable by the machine, the method further comprising:

erasing the marker after the marker has been displayed for a predetermined time.

23. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine tangible embodying a program according to claim 22, of instructions executable by the machine, the method further comprising:

calculating an elapse time till a posterior coordinate indication since an anterior coordinate indication; and displaying the marker at the coordinates indicated posteriorly after erasing the marker displayed by the anterior coordinate indication if the elapse time is longer than the predetermined time.

25. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A storage medium readable by a machine tangible embodying a program according to claim 20, of instructions executable by the machine, the method further comprising:

controlling the display of the information on at least one of said display unit provided on said computer and other display device, connected to said computer, on which display coordinates corresponding to the coordinates on said display unit are set; and

displaying the marker on at least one of said display unit and said other display device on which the information is being displayed.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 26, 2003, claims 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsui (U.S. Patent No. 6,215,479) and claims 1-8, 10-12, and 14-25 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsui in view of Yano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,539,429). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 10 and 21 are cancelled. Claims 1-9, 11-20, and 22-25 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1, 5, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 are independent claims. Claims 2-4 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Claims 6-8 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 5. Claims 11-14 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 9. Claims 22-25 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 20.

Matsui discloses the pointing device 12 as a touch screen panel for inputting coordinates (X-Y) (column 8, lines 26-37), and a detection unit (control circuit) 14 specifying a